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ROTHBURY RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1966

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1966

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1966

To the Chairman and Members of the Rothbury Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Rothbury Rural District which relates to the year 1966.

The report is presented in its customary form, listing, first of all, the general and vital statistics.

The number of births was almost the same as in the previous year and the birth rate, that is, the number of births per 1,000 of the population, is lower than the national average. It is satisfactory to report that there were no infant deaths in 1966.

The overall death rate was considerably lower than in the previous year and the rate was lower than the national average. The customary distribution of the causes of death was followed and it will be seen that more than half of the deaths were due to heart disease and vascular lesions of the nervous system.

There is not a great deal to report on the infectious diseases. There were however, a considerable number of measles, whereas in the previous year there were very few. This pattern has been observed in the neighbouring districts and illustrates the well known biennial periodicity of this infectious disease. There were no notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis during the year, although one death in an elderly person was attributable to this cause.

The immunisation and vaccination rates in the district are satisfactory. There can now be very few children who have not received protective immunisations against the preventable infectious diseases. It is very important that these high levels of immunisation

are maintained and it is due to the efforts of the General Practitioners and Local Authority staff that the immunisation rates are as high as they are.

The Surveyor and Public Health Inspector in his report itemises the sanitary circumstances of the district. These may generally be described as satisfactory.

Housing throughout the district is good and each year a steady number of Grant aided improvements to properties continues to raise the general level of housing in the district.

This will be my final report to you. I am leaving the district to take up another appointment and I wish to thank all members of the Council for their continued interest during the years I have worked here. I would also like to express my appreciation to my colleagues on the Council staff and particularly to Mr. Oliver for his ready help and advice whenever needed. I am leaving the district with the very happiest of memories.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

John McCormick

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district was 167,186 acres.

The number of inhabited houses was 2,144 and the number of new houses completed during the year was 12.

The rateable value was £154,720 and the sum represented by a penny rate was £587.

The estimated mid-year population was 5,290 and this figure was taken when calculating the birth and death rate.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	38	22	60
Illegitimate	5	1	6
Totals	43	23	66

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	12.47
Crude Birth Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor	14.71
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	9.09

Still Births			
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	-	1	1

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and still births	14.92
Total live and still births	67

Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)			
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	-	-	-

Infant Mortality Rate	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	-
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	-
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-

Neo-natal Mortality Rate	
Deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births	-

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate	
Deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate	
Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births	14.92

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	
Number of deaths	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	-

Deaths	Males	Females	Total
	28	25	53

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	10.01
Crude Death Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor	8.30
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	-
Deaths from Other Puerperal Causes	-
Deaths from Cancer	5

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	1	-	1
Tuberculosis (Other)	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	-	-	-
" " Lung, Bronchus	-	-	-
" " Breast	-	4	4
" " Uterus	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	-	1	1
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	2	2
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	6	4	10
Coronary Disease, Angina	10	5	15
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	-	1
Other Heart Disease	3	3	6
Other Circulatory Disease	3	3	6
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	2	-	2
Bronchitis	-	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-	-
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	-	1	1
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	-	1	1
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
Totals	28	25	53

INFANT MORTALITY 1919-1938 and 1949-1966

Year	Number of Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births	Infant Mortality England and Wales
1919	2	26.00	89
1920	8	80.10	80
1921	6	60.00	83
1922	1	12.00	77
1923	2	24.00	69
1924	2	25.00	75
1925	1	12.18	75
1926	3	33.30	70
1927	6	95.00	69
1928	7	96.00	65
1929	-	-	74
1930	3	62.50	60
1931	1	12.60	66
1932	3	60.00	65
1933	1	16.10	64
1934	1	12.80	59
1935	7	111.00	57
1936	1	14.08	59
1937	1	12.50	58
1938	-	-	53
1949	4	45.90	32
1950	2	26.60	30
1951	2	23.20	30
1952	-	-	28
1953	1	9.50	27
1954	-	-	25
1955	3	42.25	24.9
1956	1	11.36	24.9
1957	1	12.50	23.1
1958	-	-	22.5
1959	2	20.20	20.7
1960	-	-	21.7
1961	3	36.58	21.4
1962	-	-	21.4
1963	-	-	20.9
1964	-	-	20.9
1965	4	59.70	21
1966	-	-	19

POPULATION

YEAR	POPULATION	YEAR	POPULATION	YEAR	POPULATION
1919	5,600	1932	5,660	1954	5,580
1920	5,507	1933	5,627	1955	5,560
1921	5,968	1934	5,712	1956	5,560
1922	5,963	1935	5,692	1957	5,520
1923	6,011	1936	5,687	1958	5,520
1924	6,093	1937	5,629	1959	5,510
1925	5,959	1938	5,561	1960	5,510
1926	5,877	1939-48	Not Published	1961	5,330
1927	5,877	1949	5,680	1962	5,330
1928	5,808	1950	5,679	1963	5,320
1929	5,888	1951	5,507	1964	5,370
1930	5,767	1952	5,574	1965	5,330
1931	5,615	1953	5,567	1966	5,290

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	18
Whooping Cough	-
Diphtheria	-
Measles	50
Pneumonia	3
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	-
Enteric Fever	-
Erysipelas	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Dysentery	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-
Smallpox	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-
Food Poisoning	2
Encephalitis	-

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

IMMUNISATION

North No. 2

	Primary Immunisation							(Secondary(Reinforcing)Injections						
	Under 1	1	2	3	4-7	8-16	Total	Under 1	1	2	3	4-7	8-16	Total
Diphtheria	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus	126	233	26	8	7	3	403	-	9	197	47	103	4	360
Diphtheria and Tetanus	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	-	5	61	12	259	53	390
Tetanus	-	-	-	-	-	9	9	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Total	126	234	26	8	9	13	416	-	14	258	59	363	60	752

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

North No. 2

Number Vaccinated during Period					Number Re-vaccinated				
Under 1	1	2-4	5-15	Total	Under 1	1	2-4	5-15	Total
40	150	50	19	259	-	-	10	60	70

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

North No. 1 and 2 Areas

The following table shows the number of persons vaccinated against poliomyelitis during the year ended 31st December, 1966.

	Number of Persons
3 Doses - Oral Vaccine	763
Booster dose oral	1,355

B.C.G. VACCINATIONS

North No. 2

Alnwick U.D.	215
Alnwick R.D.	-
Amble U.D.	103
Rothbury R.D.	44
Total	362

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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WATER SUPPLIES

Since 1962, the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company have been responsible for the supply and distribution of water in this district. During the year, the Company laid a new main from Rothbury to Thropton giving the latter village a considerably better supply, as the increased pressure has now enabled the Church Lane properties to enjoy a continuous supply, and not fluctuating, as in the past.

An enlarged main has been laid at Hillside, Rothbury, to cope with the increased demand.

Monthly samples are taken to ensure wholesome supplies.

The number of dwellinghouses supplied from public mains is set out in the following table. All are supplied direct to the house.

Parish	No. of Houses	Approx. Population
Alwinton	17	59
Brinkburn	23	62
Cartington	3	9
Elsdon	49	134
Harbottle	45	122
Hepple	17	58
Longframlington	237	585
Rothbury	671	1807
Thropton	100	251
Tosson	17	42
Whittingham	90	257
Totals	1269	3386

SEWERAGE DISPOSAL

The disposal works at Longframlington, Whittingham, Wingates and the Council houses at Thropton, continue to function satisfactorily. Entirely satisfactory results are difficult to maintain on the smaller works.

The Ministry has given the go ahead for the new works at Rothbury. Tenders for the work will be invited during 1967.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Consultations have taken place with the County Planning Officer, regarding the provision of access areas with conveniences within the National Park. We are extremely hopeful of the result.

Vandalism has been less in the Bridge Street convenience since all coin locks were removed. The same cannot be said of the Riverside convenience, probably because it is more isolated.

HOUSING

During the year, the remaining four houses at Tower Side, Whittingham, were completed and occupied. The four old persons houses at Church Street were also completed and occupied.

The erection of these houses has improved the approach to Church Street enormously. We are no longer greeted with an area of weeds and nettles.

The number of Council Houses is 310.

Four private houses were built during the year.

Twelve houses were made fit during the year as a result of informal action.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1958
Housing Purchase and Housing Act 1959
Housing Act 1961

A. Discretionary Grants

Applications submitted during the year	10
Applications rejected	Nil
Applications approved	10
Approx. average grant per house 1966	£280
Total number of houses approved for grant since inception of scheme	358

B. Standard Grants

	During the year	Total to date
Number of houses for which grants have been made	3	31
Number of houses provided with		
a) bath or shower	3	23
b) wash hand basin	3	24
c) hot water supply	3	16
d) water closet	3	30
e) food store	3	16

Average grant per house 1966 £152

REFUSE DISPOSAL

All properties in the district with the exception of some in the hills, have a weekly or fortnightly collection. The service operates smoothly. Two seven cubic yard vehicles and five men are employed.

CARAVANS

The new site at Whitton is now fully operational with 70 vans. Planning Consent has been given for a further site at Whitton to hold 40 vans and consent given to increase the number on a site at Longframlington.

There is a continuing demand for caravan sites in the area.

FOOD

The Council is able to maintain 100% inspection of meat, as required by the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963. Mr. D. J. Macpherson, M.R.C.V.S. gives the necessary cover in my absence.

During the year, 1566 carcases were examined (368 beast, 131 pigs and 1,067 sheep).

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district	2016	241
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	16	2
(b) Number infested by (1) Rats	16	2
(11) Mice	-	-
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	24	-
(b) Number infested by (1) Rats	10	-
(11) Mice	-	-

SEWERS

There were no sewers infested by rats during the year.

FACTORIES ACT 1937 & 1948

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purpose of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sec. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	1	-	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	18	6	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding out-workers' premises)	3	3	-	-
Totals	22	9	-	-

2. DEFECTS FOUND None

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

This Act, brought into force during 1964, makes provision for the safety, health and welfare of people employed in these kind of premises.

Registration and General Inspections

Class of Premises	Number of Premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of Registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	-	8	-
Retail Shops	1	22	7
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	1	-
Catering establishments open to public, canteens	-	6	3
Fuel storage depots	-	1	-
Totals	1	38	10

Analysis of Persons Employed

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons Employed
Offices	20
Retail Shops	72
Wholesale departments, warehouses	3
Catering establishments open to the public	24
Canteens	-
Fuel storage depots	1
TOTAL	120
Total Males	38
Total Females	82